

Utah Veterans Advisory Council
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
November 18, 2015

Place: Multipurpose Room at the SLC Veterans Nursing Home

Members Present: Brian Garrett, Gary Harter, Frank Maughan, Loren Miller, Mike Mower, Dave Phillips, Gary Schwartz, Steve Young

Excused: George Gutzmer, Bob Pagnani, Dennis Wagner, Dan Zaharias

Secretary: Alan Ferner

Guests: Bobby Jackson, Terry Kohler, Dennis McFall, Cory Pearson, Chuck Stephenson, Paula Stephenson, Erin Wynn

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Frank Maughan. Frank introduced and welcomed those in attendance. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The minutes of our 21 October meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. Brian Garrett made a motion that we remove items 4 (Veterans Registry) and 5a (JROTC Programs) from the agenda. Gary Schwartz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. VA Medical Center: Steve Young briefed us on the VA Medical Center. The Medical Center has recently received a 5 star designation (highest rating) in the category of 1A complexity (most complex.) Steve also informed us of an IG report as part of a nationwide review of seismic issues, including the Salt Lake VAMC. This is also a budget issue due to lack of funds. Dave Phillips made a motion that the Council send a letter to our congressional delegation, with a copy to the Utah Veterans and Military Commission, addressing the seismic safety concerns. Gary Schwartz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
5. VA Regional Office: Loren Miller emphasized that the Regional Office is building a "Culture of Quality." Improvements continue in all areas of measurement, including a 97% rating accuracy. Loren also explained the distinction between claim based (one claim can have multiple issues) and issue based (categorized by issue) reporting.
6. Utah Dept. Veterans & Military Affairs: Gary Harter described the uses of the license plate funds. The three primary uses are sponsorships, participating in events, and the Outreach program. He also advised that we have two openings to serve on the Veterans Advisory Council. Applications can be found at the Utah Boards and Committees website. Dennis McFall reported that the present Nursing Homes have all been rated as 5 star facilities, and that they are all fiscally sound. His report on the Veterans Cemetery indicated that there is adequate space at the columbarium for about 15 years and casketed burials for about 7 to 8

years. Cory Pearson summarized the recent job fair, which went very well. Cory also reported that the Utah Veteran unemployment rate continues to improve. .

7. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 PM by Frank Maughan. Our next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, December 16th, at 4:00 PM, in the Multipurpose Room at the SLC Veterans Nursing Home.

The December meeting will be followed by our annual holiday social hour with refreshments